

# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the Asbestos Release Site

## Where is the Asbestos Release Site and how did it get there?

The *Asbestos Release Site (ARS)* refers to a 112-acre area located north and south of County Line Road where subsurface soil contains asbestos fibers. The ARS is clearly marked by signs and fencing. From the early 1890s to 1970s, the Ehret Magnesia Company and its successor, the Keene Corporation, manufactured asbestos insulation products at a plant located on private land surrounded by what was the state park at that time. The asbestos itself was imported. A waste slurry that contained asbestos was generated during the manufacturing process. Ehret and Keene disposed of this waste in abandoned quarries and drainages located along County Line Road and Station Lane.

## Why do I have to stay out of the ARS?

The ARS is clearly marked by signs and fencing and the public is prohibited from entering these areas. Exposure to airborne asbestos may result in a potential health risk because persons breathing the air may breathe in asbestos fibers. The soil that contains asbestos is covered with non-asbestos containing soil, and as long as the soil cover remains in place, the asbestos cannot become airborne. Disturbance of the soil cover from vehicular or foot traffic could result in a release of asbestos into the air.

During construction, additional areas may be closed to the public to protect visitors from open excavations and from moving vehicles. For your safety, please observe all signs and obey instructions from personnel on site.

## What is Happening Now?

Interim response measures, such as fencing of contaminated areas, conducting soil sampling and air monitoring, covering and seeding areas of exposed asbestos, and posting warning signs to advise visitors and staff of potential health risks in certain areas have been in place since the contamination was discovered. The final selected remedy being implemented now, which will fully address the contamination, includes the shallow excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soils. This remedy was presented to the public in the *Proposed Plan for Clean-up of the Asbestos Release Site*, issued by the NPS for public comment in 2006. After the formal public comment period, the Selected Remedy was presented in the Record of Decision (ROD) issued for the Site on January 18, 2007. An agreement between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States for the remediation was completed in 2010.

A remediation contractor was selected by NPS in September 2012. Work to be completed in Fall 2012 includes site surveying, archeological clearance, and work plan preparations. Excavation of contaminated soil is scheduled to begin in Spring 2013. The total remediation and restoration of excavated areas is anticipated to take two years to complete. During remediation, the NPS will ensure that no asbestos is released into the air by using techniques such as wetting the soil and conducting air monitoring of all active work areas.

## How can I find out more?

The park maintains a repository of information related to the ARS that may be viewed by the public upon request. This repository includes copies of environmental investigations and other related documents.

Information about the Site is also available on the VFNHP website:

<http://www.nps.gov/vafo/parkmgmt/asbestos.htm> .

If you have any questions concerning the Asbestos Release Site, please contact Donna Davies, the NPS project manager at (610) 793-1006 or [donna\\_davies@nps.gov](mailto:donna_davies@nps.gov).